

Landmark Oyster Study Continues to Provide Data

Dr. Peter Kingsley-Smith, a post-doctoral research associate at VIMS' Eastern Shore Laboratory, worked with the crew of the *R/V Pelican* in November to remove experimental oyster cages from the York River in front of VIMS.

The cages are part of an ongoing collaboration between VIMS and the University of Maryland that marks the first-ever ecological study of the non-native oyster *Crassostrea ariakensis* deployed directly on the Bay bottom in a naturalistic manner (see *The Crest* v. 7, no. 1).

Since the study began in October 2005, Kingsley-Smith and colleagues

have collected significant data on the survival and growth of native (*C. virginica*) and non-native (*C. ariakensis*) oysters grown side-by-side at four field sites in Virginia and Maryland. The sites cover a range of salinities, water depths, disease environments, and predator abundance.

The researchers are also collecting data on disease prevalence, gamete production, and the genetic status of oysters among the four sites, and are conducting an in-depth study of both the free-living

and attached animal communities that have colonized the oyster beds.

Researchers removed the cages from the York River site after Tropical Storm Ernesto and two strong nor'easters disturbed the trays in which the oysters sit, rendering subsequent assessments of their survival and mortality of questionable scientific value. The storms did not dislodge any oysters from the cages.

When completed, the study will provide much-needed data for the Environmental Impact Statement now being prepared to evaluate the impact that introduction of this Asian oyster

might have on the Bay ecosystem. The EIS is scheduled to be available sometime during 2007.

The team presented preliminary data on survival and growth between species and across the four field sites at the International Conference on Shellfish Restoration in Charleston SC in November, together with data on the associated faunal assemblages.

They plan to sample the remaining three field sites again in April, July, and October of 2007.



Researchers removing the cages from the York River site.

WILLIAM & MARY VIRGINIA INSTITUTE of MARINE SCIENCE

Web Update

VIMS

Welcome Research Education Advisory Services Administration Resources News & Media

Coastal-Zone Processes

This site describes the projects, people, and publications of Dr. Jesse McNinch's research group, whose members investigate the processes that control the morphology and layering of sedimentary deposits in the coastal zone. Visit www.vims.edu/physical/research/pelicanlab/

Sediment Geochronology

This site describes the research, people, and publications of Dr. Steve Kuehl's sediment geochronology and seabed-processes laboratory. Visit www.vims.edu/physical/research/geochron

Dissertations and Theses

The Hargis Library at VIMS has made a selected number of recent PhD dissertations and Master's theses avail-

able on-line in .pdf format. The library plans to offer this type of on-line access for future dissertations and theses as well. Visit www.vims.edu/library/mainpubs

Most Cited Papers

Hargis library staff also provide a web page that lists the 20 most-cited journal articles by VIMS researchers between 2000-2006 and 1996-2006. Visit www.vims.edu/library

Seminar Series

Learn about upcoming and past lectures in VIMS Marine Science Seminar Series by visiting www.vims.edu/events/science. These seminars are aimed at a scientific audience but are open to the public.

Calendar of Events

February 2007

- 22 After Hours Lecture* - Small Fish, Big Controversy: Menhaden in Chesapeake Bay
- 24 10th Annual Blue Crab Bowl

March

- 8 Reception honoring VIMS Alumni
- 29 After Hours Lecture* - Eel be Back? American Eels in Chesapeake Bay
- 30 Associates Day Reception

April

- 26 After Hours Lecture* - Algal Blooms in the Bay: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
- 27 Council Meeting
- 28 VIMS Art Show and Auction

May

- 9-11 Working Waterways & Waterfronts - A National Symposium on Water Access
- 11 Tidal Wetlands Workshop - Sea-Level Rise & Other Coastal Hazards: The Risk of Coastal Living
- 19 VIMS Marine Science Day

June

- 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - VIMS Public Tour
- 19 Seagrass Discovery Lab
- 25-29 17th Annual Rotary Chesapeake Bay Conference
- 28 After Hours Lecture - TBA

July

- 6, 13, 20, 27 - VIMS Public Tour
- 16-20 Explore the Chesapeake Bay Camp
- 17 Blue Crabs Discovery Lab
- 26 After Hours Lecture - TBA
- 30 - Aug. 3 Estuary Explorer Summer Program

August

- 3, 10, 17, 24 - VIMS Public Tour
- 7-8 Water Quality Teacher Workshop
- 21 Discovery Lab - TBA
- 30 After Hours Lecture - TBA

* After Hours Lectures - The February, March, and April lectures are being held in the Freight Shed in Yorktown. Please call (804) 684-77846 to register and for directions.

For an up-to-date listing of public events and seminars at VIMS, visit www.vims.edu/events/

For more information call 804/684-7846 or 804/684-7001.

Visit our website at www.vims.edu